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10 Mar 1988

TALKING POINTS FOR DDCI FOR NSPG

Sandinista Bocay Operation

Government Activity

The Sandinistas appear to making preparations for what may be either a continuation of their offensive in the Bocay Valley or a major cross-border operation against the rebel headquarters at San Andres De Bocay, Honduras.

-- Sandinista AN-26s bombed the base on 2 and 5 March; Only minor casualties were reported as a result of the first airstrike, and no casualties resulted from the second sortie [REDACTED]

25X1

-- Sandinista units of unknown size--possibly reconnaissance patrols--crossed into Honduras several kilometers west of San Andres de Bocay on 4 and 5 March, [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

-- [REDACTED] a Sandinista reconnaissance battalion had moved to within 18 kilometers of the Honduran border by 6 March.

25X1

25X1

-- [REDACTED] the Sandinistas airlifted 18 helicopter loads of troops--as many as 500 men--to a landing zone within three kilometers of the Honduran border yesterday afternoon. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

Insurgent Activity

25X1

The rebels have reacted to Sandinista maneuvers toward San Andres de Bocay by establishing defensive positions across the border inside Nicaragua.

-- [] they have more than 1,300 fighters deployed in defensive positions around San Andres de Bocay; most are deployed along a forward defensive line in an arc some 15 kilometers from the center of their base in Honduras []

25X1

25X1

-- Rebel chief Bermudez has ordered his forces to conduct intense patrols to seek out the Sandinistas, and engage them before they are able to move in strength across the border []

25X1

25X1

Large amounts of both lethal and non-lethal aid are stored at the San Andres de Bocay base, making it a lucrative target for the Sandinistas.

-- In a resupply surge prior to the aid cutoff, the rebels airdropped 244,000 pounds of lethal and non-lethal supplies into the San Andres de Bocay base during February []

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